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While we shall be continued by you in the very important Trust, which you have committed to us, we shall keep our Eyes constantly and steadily fixed upon the grand Object of the Union of the Colonies—THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND SECURITY OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. Every Measure that we employ shall be directed to the Attainment of this great End: No Measure, necessary, in our Opinion, for attaining it, shall be declined. If any such Measure sh [torn] our principal Intention, draw the Colonies into Engagements that may suspend or dissolve their Union with their fellow-Subjects in Great Britain, we shall lament the Effect; but shall hold ourselves justified in adopting the Measure. That the Colonies may continue connected, as they have been, with Britain, is our second Wish: Our first is—THAT AMERICA MAY BE FREE.

2. *The Surrender of Fort Charlotte, Mobile, 1780.*

[The following documents are sent by William Beer, Esq., Librarian of the Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans.]

During a short visit to London in 1895, I found at the Record Office, under the heading *Colonial Records, America and West Indies*, a complete series of documents relative to the history of the British colony of West Florida. I made a few notes, among which the more interesting relate to the capture of Fort Charlotte, Mobile, by the Spanish under Don Bernardo de Galvez.

After describing the surrender of Fort Bute and Baton Rouge, Gayarré in the *History of Louisiana* states that "on the 5th February, 1780, Galvez sailed from the Balize with 2000 men, composed of regulars, of the militia of the colony, and of some companies of free blacks. In the Gulf he was overtaken by a storm which crippled some of his vessels. After some delay Galvez succeeded in landing his army on the eastern point of Mobile harbor, but in such confusion that had General Campbell, who was at Pensacola, marched immediately against them, he might have secured an easy victory. For this Galvez had made provision, but learning from his spies that the English showed no sign of sallying from Pensacola he decided to attack Fort Charlotte."

We learn from Von Eelking, *Die Deutschen Hilfstruppen im Nordamerikanischen Befreiungs-Kriege, 1776 bis 1783*, Hannover, 1863, that an effort was made by General Campbell to relieve the fort, but the movements of the relieving force were delayed by heavy rain-storms which flooded the country.

After the summons to surrender and the receipt of Captain

Durnford's reply, siege batteries were erected, in ten days a breach was made in the walls of the fort, and its commander wisely capitulated. It is said that, on the discovery of the small number of the defenders of the fort, Galvez regretted the easy terms granted.

[Copied from America and West Indies :
Floridas 1702-1782. No. 533.]

A LA POINTE DES CHAKTO, le 1 Mars, 1780.

Monsieur,

Si j'avais moins de deux mille hommes à mes ordres, et si vous aviez plus de cent soldats et quelques matelots, je ne vous ferois pas la proposition de vous rendre, mais la grande inégalité des forces nous met dans le cas — vous de céder immédiatement ou moi de vous faire subir toutes les extrémités de la guerre, si une résistance inutile et déplacée irrite la patience de mes troupes, trop ennuyés par quelques contretemps.

Au jour d'hui je suis prêt à vous accorder une capitulation régulière et conforme aux circonstances — demain peut-être il n'y aura plus d'autre partie pour vous que le repentir infructueux de n'avoir pas accepté ma proposition en faveur des malheureux qui sont sous votre commandement.

J'ai l'honneur d'être

Monsieur

Votre très humble et

très obéissant serviteur

[Signed] B^d DE GALVEZ.

FORT CHARLOTTE, MOBILE, 1 March, 1780.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Summons to surrender immediately the Fort to your Excellency's Superior Forces.

The difference of numbers I am convinced are greatly in your favor, Sir, but mine are much beyond your Excellency's conception and was I to give up this Fort on your demand, I should be regarded as a traitor to my king and country. My love for both and my own honor direct my heart to refuse surrendering this Fort until I am under conviction that resistance is in vain.

The generosity of your Excellency's mind is well known to my brother officers and soldiers and should it be my misfortune to be added to their number a heart full of generosity and valor will ever consider brave men fighting for their country as objects of esteem and not revenge.

I have the honor to be

[Signed] ELIAS DURNFORD.

Gov. D. B. DE GALVEZ.

MOBILE, 2nd March, 1780.

Sir,

Soon after I sent Land Express, a flag was perceived in the wood and I sent an officer to receive it at some distance.

This, as I expected, was a summons to surrender to Don Bernardo de Galvez's Superior Forces. A copy of which you have inclosed with my answer thereto — The Flag was brought in Person by an old acquaintance, Colonel Bolyny who sent me a polite card — wishing for the pleasure of an interview if possible, and Profession of Friendship, although we were National enemies, on which I sent Mr. Barde to conduct him into the Fort with the customary ceremony where he dined and continued until near five o'clock drinking a chearful Glass to the healths of our King and Friends.

During our conversation I found that the Report of the Shipwreck was true; he acknowledged that they had undergone great hardships, but would not allow to have lost any men, and informed me that they were about 2500 men, but by trusty indians who were sent by me into the camp in the morning, I learned that a great number were negroes and mulattoes and that they had landed no cannon.

Bolyny confirmed that we had cut the cable and just hit the Row Galley — but we are certain that three nine Pounders shot hit her and as she is gone off I suspect she is well mauled for yesterday morning she was seen opposite the Chactaws on a heal and I suppose is gone to Dog River to repair the damage received from our shot.

As soon as Colonel Bolyny left me I drew up my Garrison in the square, read to them Don Galvez's summons, and then told them that if any man among them was afraid to stand by me that I should open the gate and he should freely pass. this had the desired effect, and not a man moved. I then read to them my answer to the summons in which they all joined in three cheers and then went to our necessary work like good men.

I really believe their (the enemy's) force is greatly magnified.

I am —

[Signed] ELIAS DURNFORD.

GENERAL CAMPBELL.

Your great good news hath just arrived. I thank you dear Sir for the consolation it affords me. I need not say I will defend Fort to the last extremity. The vessels I can see from this are in the mouth of the East Pass about two miles distant from the Fort. And the Galvez Brig is one and Picklers' Florida the other. Near to the Dog River are five ships or Pollaccas and I am informed that three or four are in Dog River besides the Row Galley. I am &c.

[Signed] ELIAS DURNFORD.

4 o'clock afternoon.

[GEN.] CAMPBELL.

Sir,

It is my misfortune to inform you that this morning my small but brave Garrison marched down the Breach and surrendered themselves Prisoners of War to General Bernardo de Galvez's Superior Arms. I write for your information and request you will do me the favor to inform Mrs. Durnford that I am in good health and that she ought to be under no uneasiness at my fate, when it is in my power to send you the Capitulation and state preceeding it for a few days will do it ; in the mean time I assure you Sir that no man in the Garrison hath stained the Luster of the British Arms.

I have the honor to be &c.

[Signed] ELIAS DURNFORD.

FORT CHARLOTTE, MOBILE, 14th March 1780.

The number by return of killed, wounded, and prisoners, 304.

3. Letter of John Page to Madison, 1801.

The following letter of John Page, a patriot of the Revolution, a member of Congress from 1789 to 1797, and Governor of Virginia from 1802 to 1805, was found among a collection of old letters in the Department of State at Washington, labelled "Applications and Recommendations for Office. Chiefly Revolutionary Officers." It seems to have no place in this collection unless the wish expressed in it that "every possible encouragement may be given by Government to such vigilant and enlightened editors of newspapers as have ably supported the Republican cause" may be considered as recommending newspaper men for offices under Jefferson's administration.

E. I. RENICK.

ROSEWELL
Ap! 7th 1801.

My dear Sir

I return you my best Thanks for your Friendly Answer to my Letter.

I heartily condole with you on the Death of your Father, a Circumstance but lately made known to me : and lament the bad State of your Health. But I sincerely hope that you will be soon restored to perfect Health, and that no Circumstance may occur to interrupt you in the Exercise of the Office, in which every Friend of yours and of the United States wished to see you placed.

We rejoice with sincere, but dignified and well regulated Expressions of Joy, at the late happy Triumphs of the republican Cause here, and at the Confusion and overthrow of the formidable Combination in Europe of its